

CH 6: Circular Motion, Orbits & Gravity!

- Recall: In uniform circular motion, acceleration (\vec{a}_c) points toward the center of the circle...

$$\boxed{\text{Centripetal Acceleration: } a_c = \frac{v^2}{r}}$$

↳ magnitude of \vec{a}_c

Based on Newton's 2nd Law ($\vec{F} = m\vec{a}$), there must be a force pointing toward the center of the circle:

$$\text{Centripetal Force: } \underline{\underline{F_c}} = m a_c = m \frac{v^2}{r}$$

↳ magnitude of \vec{F}_c

Kinematics of Circular motion:

T = period = time to go around circle once.

$$\text{Circumference} = 2\pi r$$

$$\text{Speed} = v = \frac{\text{distance}}{\text{time}} = \frac{2\pi r}{T}$$

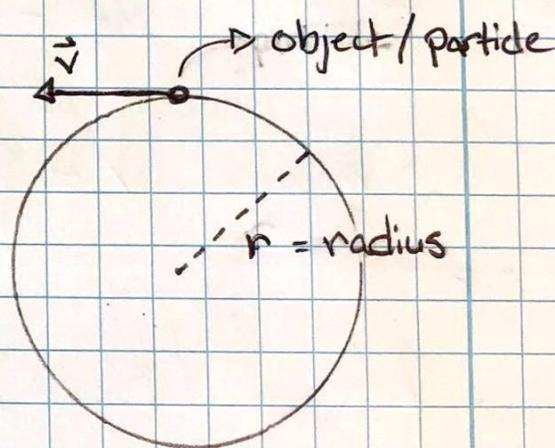
$$\therefore \left| T = \frac{2\pi r}{v} \right| \Rightarrow \text{Frequency (f)} = \frac{\# \text{ of Revolutions}}{\text{time}} = \frac{1}{T}$$

We can re-write a_c in terms of T + f :

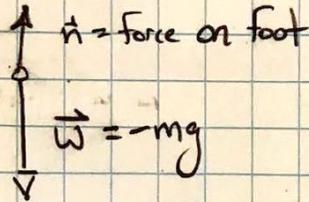
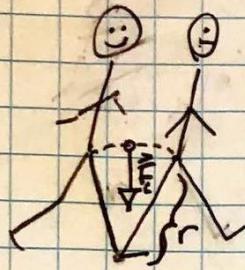
$$a_c = \frac{v^2}{r} = \frac{(2\pi r / T)^2}{r} = \left(\frac{2\pi}{T} \right)^2 r$$

or $f = \frac{1}{T}$

$$a_c = (2\pi f)^2 r$$



Curious case of Walking Motion:



center of circle is down!

$$F_c = \vec{n} + \vec{w} = m\vec{a}_c = -m\frac{v^2}{r}$$

Maximum force F_c is when $\vec{n} = 0$ (just before "running")

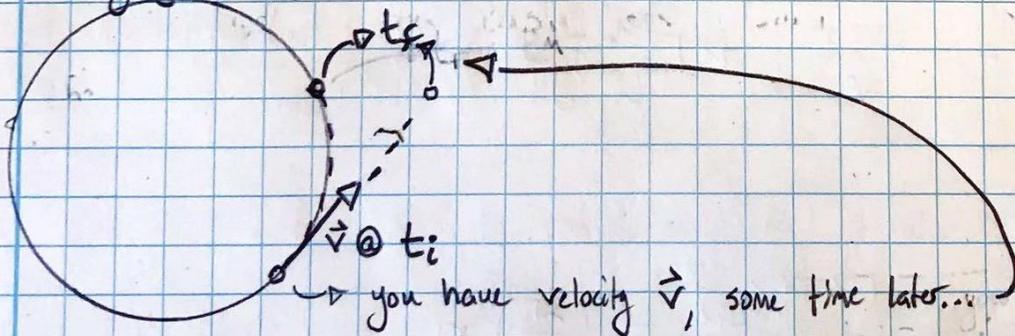
$$F_{c, \max} = -mg = -m\frac{v^2}{r}$$

maximum $v = \sqrt{gr}$ → tall people walk faster.

Apparent (Pseudo) Forces:

↳ fake / fictitious

Merry-go-round



If you stay on the ride you follow circle...

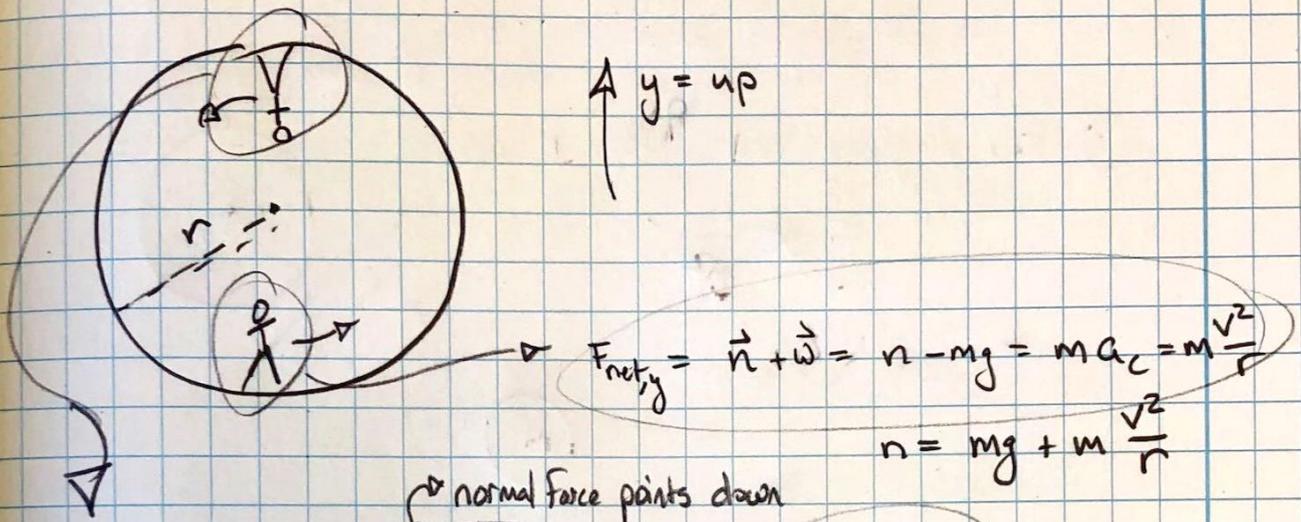
If you let go you'll fly off in a straight line away from ride...

- From your perspective there was something "pulling" you away from the ride:

Centrifugal Force = fice force!

Apparent weight : Similar to elevator...

you "Feel" the normal force \vec{n} .



normal force points down

$$F_{\text{net},y} = \vec{n} + \vec{w} = -n - mg = -ma_c = -m \frac{v^2}{r}$$

Apparent weight $w_{\text{app}} = m \frac{v^2}{r} - mg$

\therefore apparent weight is smaller @ top than @ bottom!

if $n=0$, you'll "Feel" weightless... and might fall!

$$n=0 = m \frac{v^2}{r} - mg = w_{\text{app}}$$

$$m \frac{v^2}{r} = mg$$

$$v = \sqrt{gr}$$

critical speed, below which you fall!

→ this is the exact speed of satellites... they don't fall to earth!

Newton's Law of Gravity:

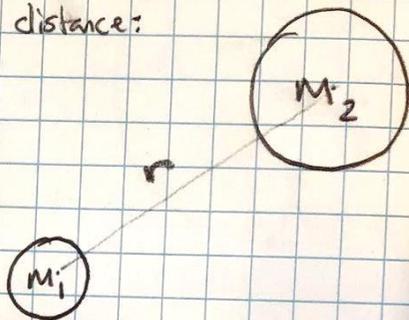
Gravity is universal!

↳ all objects experience Gravity.

↳ each object attracts all other objects

1) Force of gravity weakens w/ distance:

$$F_g \propto \frac{1}{r^2}$$



2) Force of gravity increases w/ mass of both objects:

$$F_g \propto m_1 m_2$$

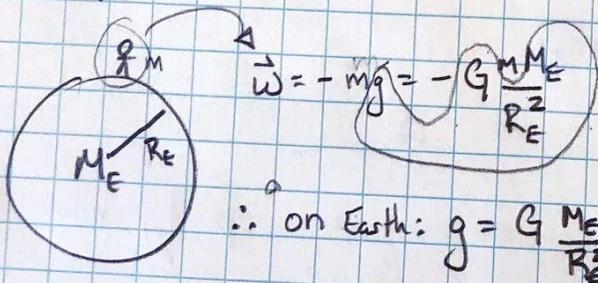
Combining 1 & 2:

$$F_g = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$$

↳ gravitational constant: $G = 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \text{ N m}^2 / \text{kg}^2$

The magnitude of (g) on the surface of a planet:

on Earth:



$$\therefore \text{on Earth: } g = G \frac{M_E}{R_E^2}$$

$$g = G \frac{M_{\text{Planet}}}{R_{\text{Planet}}^2}$$

on Moon:



$$\vec{w} = -m\vec{g}_{\text{Moon}} = -G \frac{m M_M}{R_M^2}$$

$$\therefore \text{on Moon: } g = G \frac{M_M}{R_M^2}$$

Orbital Speed: speed of a satellite

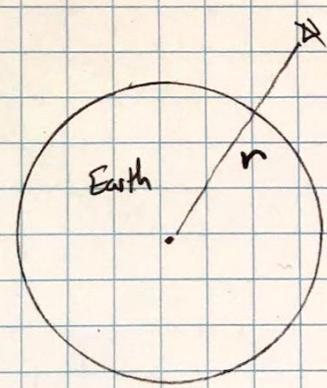
Recall:

A satellite does not fall to earth because its apparent weight is zero:

$$W_{app} = \frac{m v^2}{r} - mg = 0$$

$$\therefore v = \sqrt{gr}$$

$$= \sqrt{\frac{GM_E}{r^2} r} = \sqrt{\frac{GM_E}{r}}$$



A satellite circles the Earth w/ period (τ)

Speed = $\frac{\text{distance}}{\text{time}}$

$$\sqrt{\frac{GM_E}{r}} = \frac{2\pi r}{\tau} \Rightarrow \tau = 2\pi \frac{r^{3/2}}{\sqrt{GM_E}}$$